

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-18 remain pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, and 3-18 have been amended herein.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, Figure 11 is being amended to include --Prior Art-- in the Letter Transmitting Corrected Formal Drawing accompanying this Amendment.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicant has reworded the language questioned by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042705 (Uchida et al.). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Uchida et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,845,702 (Melindo). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As is recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to an optical waveguide device. The device includes a slab-type optical waveguide layer and a plurality of chips which include optical input and output ports for inputting and outputting an optical signal to and from the slab-type optical waveguide layer. Additionally, an

optical input port receives an optical signal, output by an optical output port, from the slab-type optical waveguide layer in accordance with a timing control signal inputted using an electrical connection between the plurality of chips.

Uchida et al. relates to an optoelectronic circuit board 10 which includes an optical fiber 30 contained in insulating material between the top surface 12 and bottom surface 14 of the circuit board 10. The optical fiber 30 has a fiber end 32 which extends through the side wall surface 28 of hole 24 and has an end surface 34 which faces into the hole and may be approximately flush with wall surface 28. However, Uchida et al. is not believed to disclose or suggest at least a slab-type optical waveguide layer as recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Uchida et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Melindo relates to an optical switching system including input channels carrying packetized data switched one-by-one to output channels. However, Melindo also does not disclose a slab-type optical waveguide layer recited in independent Claim 1. Thus, Melindo fails to remedy the deficiencies of Uchida et al. noted above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 3-18 are also

allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MAWJMC\tnt
DC_MAIN 178841